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Message Text

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71
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 COA-02 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13 NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

EB-11 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /152 W
---------- 067910
R 121758Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3788

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 00814

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: DECLASS 31 DEC 1988
TAGS: PINT, MARR, IC
SUBJECT: ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE (IDF)

FOL MSG FROM USNAVINVSERVA KEFLAVIK IC DTG R 111446Z JUL 73
SENT ACTION DIRNAVINVSERV ALEX VA, USNAVINVSERVOEUR LONDON
COMICEDEFOR (J-2) KEF IC CINCLANT (J-27) NORFOLK AND AMEMB
REYKJAVIK JUL 12 RPTD TO YOU.

QUOTE:

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NIS INFORMATION REPORT/07-11-73/N03800/SER S97-73//
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'.0022.N/C.60HQ.N//COMICEDEFOR (J-2)/CINCLANT (J-27)/AMEMB REYKJAVIK/
/
KEFLAVIK ICELAND/M E WOLF SPECIAL AGENT
I/ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE AGREEMENT: POSITIONS OF VARIOUS ICELANDIC
ENTITIES REGARDING (U)
DOI/JUL 73
DPA/07-10-63, KEFLAVIK ICELAND
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SOURCE/ 72N60-0604

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SUMMARY

(S/NFD) THIS REPORT SETS FORTH SIGNIFICANT REPORTED POSITIONS OF VARIOUS ICELANDIC MEMBERS OF CABINET REGARDING THE IDF ISSUE, INCLUDING A CONCEPT OF EVENTUAL EAST-WEST NEUTRALITY FOR ICELAND.
1. (S/NFD) SOURCE PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFO GAINED FROM SUB-SOURCE, AN IMPORTANT COMMUNIST BUSINESSMAN FRIEND OF LUDVIK JOSEFSSON, WHO RECEIVED INFO DIRECTLY FROM JOSEFSSON, AND WHOSE CREDIBILITY SOURCE SUPPORTS: PRIOR TO RECENT DEPARTURE OF FM EINAR AGUSTSSON TO HELSINKI FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY AFFAIRS CONFERENCE THERE, GOI EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED WHAT PROPOSALS GOI MIGHT PRESENT THERE, OR WHAT MATTERS AGUSTSSON MIGHT PRESENT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS THERE TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR PROPOSALS PREFERRED BY GOI. SAID GOI DISCUSSIONS PRODUCED AGREEMENT THAT FM SHOULD WORK ON PROPOSALS, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO GAIN A NEUTRAL STATUS FOR ICELAND. SAID STATUS WAS ENVISIONED AS SIMILAR TO THAT OF AUSTRIA, DUBBED THE "AUSTRIAN SOLUTION". THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY ICELAND LEAVING NATO AND PERMITTING NO ARMED FORCE ON SOIL: THERE WAS NO MENTION OF POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEFENSE FORCE BY ICELAND ITSELF. THE COMMUNISTS PREVAILED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS BY HAVING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PP) AND LIBERAL LEFTIST PARTY (LLP) GENERALLY APPROVE THIS IDEA. AGUSTSSON, PRIMARILY DIRECTING

HIS QUESTIONS TO THE COMMUNIST CABINET MEMBERS, INQUIRED WHETHER THE CABINET COULD NOT APPROVE OF SOME KIND OF ADJUSTMENT PERIOD, FOR EXAMPLE FIVE YRS, FOR IDF TO WITHDRAW FROM ICELAND, WITH END GOAL OF OBTAINING GUARANTEES OF ICELAND NEUTRALITY BY BOTH WESTERN POWERS AND USSR. JOSEFSSON AND HANNIBAL VALDIMARSSON, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS/SOCIAL AFFAIRS, GENERALLY APPROVED AGUSTSSONS IDEA: MAGNUS KJARTANSSON, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS, CALLED FOR AS SHORT AN ADJUSTMENT PERIOD AS POSSIBLE.
2. (S/NFD) AGUSTSSONS "AUSTRIAN SOLUTION" WAS ENVISIONED BY AGUSTSSON AND PP AS A THREAT TO WESTERN POWERS TO GAIN ASSISTANCE FOR GOI IN FISHING LIMITS DISPUTE. INDICATING THIS IS THE MATTER THAT PP MINISTERS STRONGLY EMPHASIZED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS THAT IF FISHING DISPUTE IS SETTLED, EVEN TEMPORARILY, THEN GOI WOULD GAIN MORE TIME TO DISCUSS DEFENCE OF ICELAND.
3. (S/NFD) SOURCE ADVISED AGUSTSSON DID NOT INTRODUCE ABOVE MATTERS AS FORMAL PROPOSALS OF GOI AT SECURITY AFFAIRS CONFERENCE, HOWEVER SUB-SOURCE MAINTAINED AGUSTSSON DISCUSSED ICELAND NEUTRA-
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LITY WITH ALL FM S OF SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND WITH WESTERN FM S INFLUENTIAL WITH NATO (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED).
4. (S/NFD) SUB-SOURCE REPORTED THAT JOSEFSSON DOES NOT EMPHASIZE ACTUAL REMOVAL OF IDF BUT DOES DESIRE GREATEST USE OF THE IDF REMOVAL THREAT AS LEVERAGE FOR WESTERN POWER ASSISTANCE TO ICELAND IN FISHING DISPUTE. JOSEFSSON BELIEVES SUPPORT OF HIS CONSTITUENCY REQUIRES FISHING SETTLEMENT, AND THAT THE ISSUE OF IDF REMOVAL IS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY POPULAR EXCEPT AMONG DIE-HARD COMMUNISTS IN

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REYKJAVIK.
5. (S/NFD) SUB-SOURCE REPORTS STATEMENTS OF JOSEFSSON TO EFFECT THAT KJARTANSSON DESIRES IDF REMOVAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND FISHING SETTLEMENT SECONDLY, DUE TO KJARTANSSONS ACCESSMENT THAT HIS INFLUENCE IN PEOPLES ALLIANCE (PA) DEPENDS ON RAPID IDF REMOVAL. SUB-SOURCE REPORTED THAT JOSEFSSON DESIRES TO ENHANCE HIS INFLUENCE IN PA BY SETTLING FISHING ISSUE, AND IS WILLING TO APPROVE, ALTHOUGH NOT OFFICIALLY, IDF RETENTION IF SUCH WOULD UNDERMINE KJARTANSSON IN THE PA. SOURCE REPORTS JOSEFSSON AND KJARTANSSON ARE FIGHTING FOR LEADERSHIP OF PA AND THAT RAGNAR ARNALDS WILL REMAIN AS PA CHAIRMAN ONLY UNTIL OUTCOME OF THIS FIGHT.
6. (S/NFD) SUB-SOURCE REPORTS FOLLOWING NEW SIGNIFICANT TREND IN PA: AN INCREASING NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL PARTY MEMBERS, PERHAPS A MAJORITY ALREADY, INCLUDING LUDVIK JOSEFSSON, ARE CHANGING THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD APPROVAL OF IDF RETENTION. THIS RESULTS FROM THEIR CONTENTION THAT OPPOSITION TO IDF IS MERELY AN OLD DOGMATIC VIEW SUCH AS OTHER VIEWS THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES ARE CURRENTLY DROPPING IN THEIR CURRENT DETENTE WITH U.S. HOWEVER DUE TO THE MORE RABID CLIQUES IN THE PARTY, JOSEFSSON AND HIS FACTION WILL CONTINUE PUBLIC DEMANDS FOR IDF REMOVAL, BUT ARE NOT INCLINED TO EFFECTIVELY WORK FOR REMOVAL.
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